

**Michigan Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Anaerobic Digester Operator Training Program**

Operators of anaerobic digesters (AD) utilizing agricultural by-products may become certified by Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) as qualified to operate an anaerobic digester system.

Certification is valid for three years, provided all requirements are maintained. Distinct certification identification will be issued by MDA for each facility the operator manages. To meet the requirements of an MDA certified AD operator, the person in responsible charge for operating and maintaining the AD system must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Attend MDA-approved anaerobic digester operator training certification course every 3 years. This course is only required once every 3 years regardless of how many individual systems the operator manages.
2. Allow MDA to make an annual on-site evaluation of the operation and maintenance of each system, the energy generating equipment, and record keeping.
3. Maintain records to verify land application is done in accordance with the appropriate Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs).
4. Develop and maintain an Operation and Maintenance Manual for the system.

Upon completion of the certification training course and on-site evaluation, the operator will be issued a certification number that will be unique to each facility location. The operator and owner of the digester must sign an agreement with MDA indicating they will operate the digester in accordance with the above mentioned criteria. Failure to operate the digester in accordance with the criteria will result in removal of the operator from MDA's certified operator list for that facility.

For information on being a Certified Operator please contact Michelle F. Crook, P.E. with MDA at (517) 335-2487 or crookmi@michigan.gov.